




Deer Control Options



Types of Barriers

- **Barrier fence**
 - Physical barrier
- **Electric fence**
 - Aversion conditioning
- **Deer repellent chemicals**
 - Avoidance/annoyance/fear
- **Scare tactics**
 - Fear/startle/annoyance

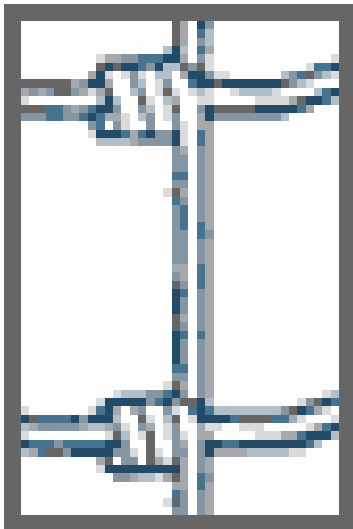


Steel fence advantages and disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Strongest
 - Cheaper than plastic
 - Should last longer than plastic
 - Can be made 100% deer proof
- Disadvantages
 - Difficult to install – too heavy and unwieldy
 - Can be visually unappealing

Steel Fence Types

Hinged joint



Fixed knot fence is much stronger and self-supporting than the hinged joint design

<http://www.staytitefence.com/>

Fixed knot





Price for hinged joint steel installed

Pat Bergum of Utility Forestry Services, Inc.

\$2.90 per linear foot

\$275 per 12 ' gate

\$85 per walk gate

Includes labor and materials

This price includes "environmental posts" which are supposed to be non-toxic--approved for use in government projects in wetlands with endangered species. I think he plans to send me the specs along with the pricing proposal.

They use 2 x 48" rolls of high tensile woven wire fastened together--a single 96" roll would be about .50 per foot more.

Wire is 10-40-7 14 gauge with 12 1/2 gauge on top and bottom.

Class 3 galvanized.

Here is the web page with the PSU specs:

<http://psuforestmgmt.cas.psu.edu/wwfenceSpecs.pdf>



Plastic Fence Advantages and Disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Can be virtually invisible
 - Easy to install
 - Can be made 100% deer proof
- Disadvantages
 - Weaker than steel
 - Shorter life due to UV degradation



Plastic Fence Construction

- Web
 - Extruded polypropylene mesh usually about 2"x2"
 - Most imported from Greece or Italy
 - Each supplier has two weights of mesh
 - Usually black
- Reinforcements
 - Heavy nylon monofilament (also black)
 - At top for support and at 3' for deer impact

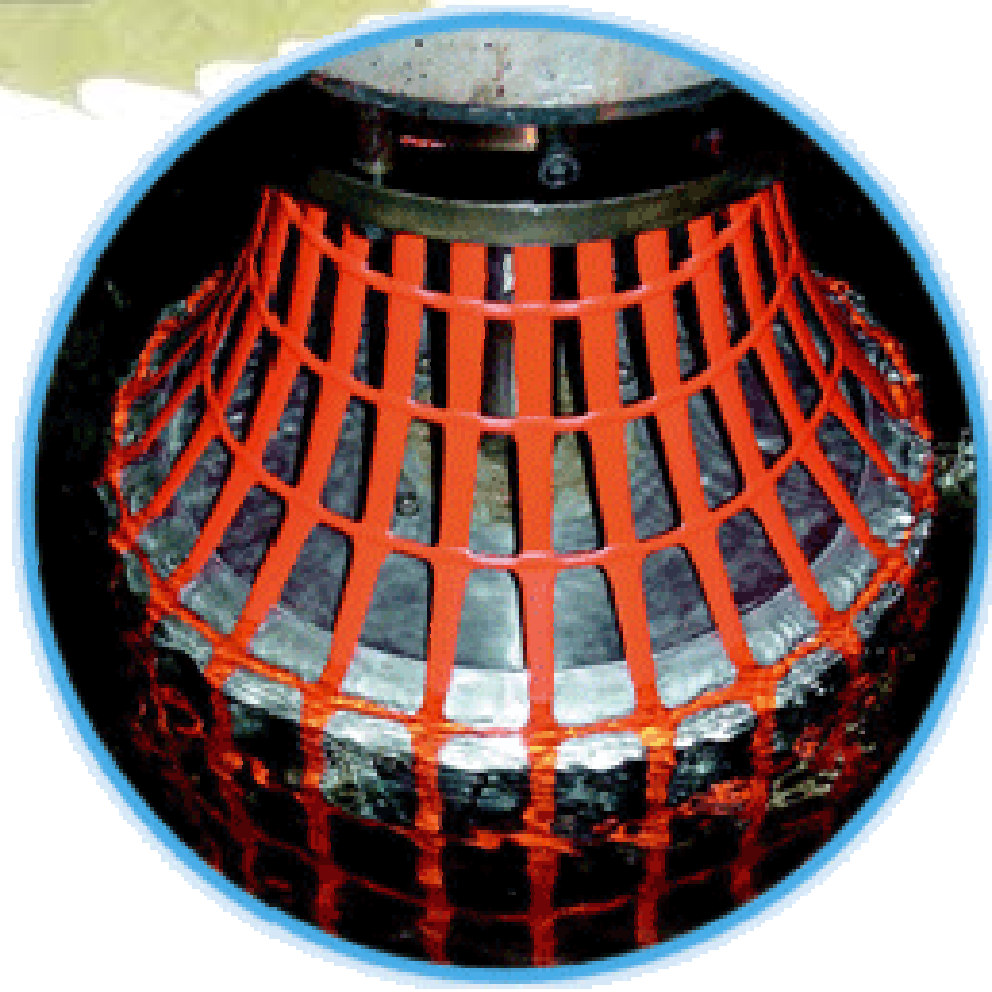
Plastic Fence at Thorpewood



How most plastic fence is manufactured

Most plastic fence is hot extruded from circular dies, slit, stretched and quenched

This is similar to the way plastic sheet is made except there it is inflated to stretch it thin and air quenched





Barrier Fence Comments

- They all need to be fastened at the bottom
- The nominal 8' fence can be jumped with heavy deer pressure.
- Post extensions with simple wires instead of additional fencing will prevent jumping
- With lesser deer pressure psychological barriers prevent jumping
 - The black plastic fence prevents jumping because deer can't focus their eyes on the fence top
 - Deer will simply walk around a smaller fenced area instead of jumping
- Plastic fence will probably not stop bear and rodents
- All fence should be 'flagged' with white flags when first installed to prevent casualties to fence or deer – especially if it blocks a deer path

Metal Hexagrid Fence

A new type of deer fence is on the market called metal hexagrid fence. It appears to be similar to black plastic coated chicken wire.

The dealers claim all the advantages of both steel and plastic fences and none of the disadvantages.

Currently the price is prohibitive for most applications.

http://www.invisible-deer-fence.com/fence_options.htm#metaldeerfencing





Electric Fence

- Principles
 - Electric fences generally depend upon conditioning deer to fear and avoid them
 - They will not be as effective with high deer pressure
- General types of electric fence
 - Baited electric fence
 - Unbaited electric fence supplement to barrier fence
 - Wireless electric fence – a seeming impossibility

Baited electric fence

- Bait 'coupons' are hung on the fence so the deer will receive a shock on the nose or tongue.
- Peanut butter is the bait of choice but commercial attractants are available
- About 2500 volts is used for nose and tongue contact
- Deer develop a strong aversion to the fence
- The aversion needs constant reinforcement and may not overcome hunger if deer pressure is high





Electric fence as a supplement

- Under conditions of extreme deer pressure, an electric fence at 2'- 3' elevation may be placed a few feet in front of a barrier fence to discourage deer from investigating the barrier fence
- This need not be baited, but the voltage should be raised to 5000 volts to penetrate the insulating fur.



Wireless electric fence

The wireless deer fence is the ultimate in deer mind control devices.

The theory is that if a deer approaches the area, the lure will be the best smelling thing around and it will receive a shock which will condition it to avoid the entire area.

Again it is unlikely to deter an extremely hungry deer, but it is the most child safe and esthetically innocuous of the electric devices. Uses two AA batteries per year.

<http://wirelessdeerfence.com/wdf/index.html>





Electric Fence Advantages and Disadvantages

- Advantages

- Cheap

- Chargers \$30 – \$130 charges up to 50 miles of fence
- Wire \$.01/ft - \$.15/ft
- Posts & insulators about \$.01/ft - \$.15/ft

- Low visibility

- Disadvantages

- High end dangerous to children and pets

- Standard electric fences are ineffective against high deer pressure.



Deer Repellants

- Bitter taste
 - Chew-Not, Deer-B-Gon, Ro-pel®, and Tree Guard®
- Obnoxious odor – include coyote urine, etc
 - Shake-Away™ , Deer-Off®, Hinder®, and Liquid Fence®
- Egg spray is the do it yourself version
- Some commercial products combine the approaches (odor and taste)
- They must be renewed as they wash off
- They are for low deer pressure applications or backyard orchards
- Dogs are effective deer repellants

<http://www.deer-repellents.biz/repellents.htm>



Scare tactics

- Generally least effective of the methods
- Include motion detector activated devices
- Sprinklers, lights, noise
- Deer become accustomed to them
- Dogs are effective as scare tactics



Considerations

- How frequently will you visit to repair, renew, or troubleshoot?
- How large is the orchard?
- How severe is deer pressure?
- Does appearance matter?
- Are utilities available?
- Bears?
- Falling branches or trees?